

Message Text

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12

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-01

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

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E.O. 11652: N/A

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SUBJECT: ROK WARNINGS AND STUDENT PROTESTS CONTINUE

REF: (A) SEOUL 7141; (B) SEOUL 7106

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: ROKG AGAIN WARNED SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS OF ITS CONCERN WITH STUDENT DEMONSTRATIONS BUT PROTESTERS CONTINUE ANTI-GOVERNMENT RALLIES AND PROTESTS ON CAMPUS. END SUMMARY.

2. ON OCTOBER 29, EDUCATION MINISTER YU KI-CHUN INFORMED SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS THAT ROKG MAY INTERVENE IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF THOSE COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES WHICH HAVE "REPEATEDLY" BEEN UNRESPONSIVE TO MINISTRY'S WRITTEN WARNINGS TO TAKE PROMPT AND APPROPRIATE MEASURES TO "NORMALIZE CLASSES." BY OCT 28, MINISTRY HAD REPORTEDLY WARNED AT LEAST FIVE UNIVERSITIES IN WRITING (REFTEL A), AND IT WARNED FIVE MORE ON FOLLOWING DAY. ACCORDING TO MINISTRY SOURCES, SECOND GROUP COMPRISES HANKUK THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY, SEOUL NATIONAL UNIVERSITY (SNU), SNU'S COMMERCIAL COLLEGE, TONGA AND SOGANG UNIVERSITIES.

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3. ESTIMATED 1,000 STUDENTS AT YONSEI UNIVERSITY STAGED ON-CAMPUS DEMONSTRATION ON OCTOBER 30, ATTEMPTING TO LEAVE CAMPUS UNTIL GATE WAS CLOSED. STUDENTS WERE HELD IN CHECK BY RIOT POLICE. 500 STUDENTS AT SONKYUNGKWAN UNIVERSITY RALLIED AND 50 STUDENTS AT HANKUK THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY STAGED SIT-IN, DEMANDING RELEASE OF 81 STUDENTS REPORTEDLY PICKED UP ON OCT 29. THIRTY TONGKUK UNIVERSITY STUDENTS DISTRIBUTED HANDBILLS ON CAMPUS. WITH EXCEPTION OF TONGKUK, NONE OF THESE SCHOOLS HAS APPARENTLY BEEN GIVEN MINISTRY'S WRITTEN WARNING TO DATE.

4. ACCORDING TO USIS SOURCES, MINISTRY OF EDUCATION STATISTICS SHOW THAT 50 STUDENTS HAVE RECEIVED PUNISHMENT THUS FAR IN CONNECTION WITH RECENT ANTI-GOVERNMENT PROTESTS. EIGHT WERE EXPELLED FROM SCHOOL, 29 WERE SUSPENDED FOR INDEFINITE PERIOD; SEVEN OTHERS FOR A DEFINITE PERIOD AND SIX OTHERS WERE REPRIMANDED. LATE NEWS BROADCAST NOTES THAT SEOUL POLICE ON OCT 30 HAVE REQUESTED ARREST WARRANTS FOR SIX STUDENTS FROM HANKUK THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY IN WHAT APPEARS TO BE FIRST ACTION OF THIS KIND SINCE EMERGENCY MEASURES DECREES WERE LIFTED. 40 HANKUK STUDENTS HAD DEMONSTRATED NEAR CAPITOL ON OCT 29.

5. UNIVERSITY FACULTY SOURCES TELL US THAT ALL MAJOR UNIVERSITIES NOW OPEN WILL EVENTUALLY CLOSE AND THAT THERE IS NOW LITTLE IF ANY CHANCE UNIVERSITIES WILL REOPEN BEFORE END OF TERM. WRITTEN AND VERBAL PRESSURES FROM ROKG ARE TOO PLAIN TO IGNORE AND SAFEST POSITION FOR SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS IS BEHIND CLOSED SCHOOL DOORS.
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